

**Statement by the Dalhousie Women's Varsity Hockey Team**

**To Dalhousie University President Tom Traves**

**Monday, January 14, 2013**

1. On behalf of the Dalhousie Women's Varsity Hockey Team, thank you for agreeing to meet with us today.
2. We all appreciate this opportunity to express our views to you, and to discuss the impact of our actions and their consequences.
3. We admit that the party which occurred on September 14, 2012, was wrong. We now understand that our actions violated the University's Hazing Policy. For that we humbly apologize. We have already apologized to the rookies and to others affected.
4. That said, what we did on September 14 was exactly what was done to us, and what we have done each year over the past four years.
5. No one ever told us that our actions were wrong. We never saw the University's Hazing Policy prior to last week.
6. In particular, no coach in the past four years has told us about the University's Hazing Policy or the consequences for violating it.
7. Had we been made aware of the University's Hazing Policy, the September 14 party would never have occurred.
8. We feel wronged by the process that was followed by the University in response to the September 14 party. We were treated like criminals throughout the process. No one showed us the actual Policy we were alleged to have violated. No one told us, either, which section of the Code of Conduct we were alleged to have violated. To this day, we are still not sure of the exact allegations that were raised against us.
9. Dalhousie promised to follow a restorative justice model, and to implement a community remedy.

10. Instead, the Dalhousie police department accused us of lying and colluding on the facts of our story, contrary to the behavioural contract we signed. The Dalhousie police suggested to one of our players that criminal prosecution against us was a possibility.
11. The University unilaterally changed the process from one of restorative justice to another unnamed process.
12. We did not know what the second process was, how to explain ourselves, or how to defend against possible discipline.
13. Also, we have been personally affected by this process. We have been made out by the University and in the media to be “mean girls”.
14. We have no means to have an independent review of our behavior.
15. We do not know the contents of the report prepared as a result of the investigation. We were never given a copy of this report, so cannot comment as to its accuracy.
16. We do not know the exact sections of the Code of Conduct, the University Calendar and/or the Hazing Policy that we were ultimately found to have violated.
17. We were never permitted to have a student advisor to represent us during this process.
18. One of our players was accused of a potential hate crime by the Dalhousie Police. We became extremely worried as a result of this accusation, and as a result we called our parents and their lawyers for help.

### **Our Suggested Response**

1. We are each prepared to perform 50 hours of community service, to Dalhousie University or to another community group, consistent with the goals of restorative justice as originally explained to us.
2. We are prepared to talk in an organized fashion through a prepared presentation to all female varsity teams at Dalhousie University about the September 14 incident, the problems with our conduct, and the University’s Hazing Policy.

3. We respectfully request to be reinstated as team members on the Dalhousie Women's Varsity Hockey Team.
4. We respectfully request to have our hockey season schedule reinstated effective immediately.

Thank you again for meeting with us.